

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend claims 1, 3-4, 7, 19, 24-25, 27-28, and 33-34; cancel claims 2, 8-18, 23, 26, 32, 35, and 36 without prejudice; and add new claims 37-39, as indicated below. A marked up version of the amended claims is attached as Appendix A.

1. (Twice Amended) In a wireless communication system, a method for performing handoff comprising:
determining, by a subscriber station, when a handoff is necessary;
receiving, by the subscriber station, reverse link power control commands; and
selectively performing said handoff in accordance with said reverse link power control commands.

3. (Twice Amended) The method Claim 1 wherein selectively performing said handoff comprises:

selecting, by the subscriber station, a base station to transmit to said subscriber station;
determining, by the subscriber station, in accordance with said reverse link power control commands whether signals transmitted by said subscriber station are being received by said selected base station with sufficient energy; and
performing said handoff to said selected base station when signals transmitted by said subscriber station are being received by said selected base station with sufficient energy.

4. (Twice Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein performing said handoff comprises transmitting, by the subscriber station, a message indicating the identity of said selected base station.

7. (Twice Amended) The method Claim 1 wherein selectively performing said handoff comprises:

determining, by the subscriber station, that a base station used to communicate with said subscriber station continues to have the strongest signal received by said subscriber station;

determining, by the subscriber station, in accordance with said reverse link power control commands whether signals transmitted by said subscriber station are being received by said determined base station with sufficient energy; and

performing said handoff to an alternative base station when signals transmitted by said subscriber station are not being received by said determined base station with sufficient energy.

19. (Once Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store reverse link power control commands provided by one or more base stations; and

a processor, coupled with the memory, configured to permit a handoff to a selected base station of the one or more base stations according to the reverse link power control commands.

24. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the reverse link power control commands requesting the subscriber station to decrease its transmission energy are indicative that the reverse link signal is being received.

25. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the reverse link power control commands requesting the subscriber station to increase its transmission energy are indicative that the reverse link signal is not being received.

27. (Once Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a memory configured to store messages, provided by one or more base stations, indicating the average quality of a reverse link signal received by the one or more base stations; and

a processor, coupled with the memory, configured to permit a handoff to a selected base station of the one or more base stations according to the messages.

*BB
Cont.*

28. (Once Amended) A communication system comprising:
a subscriber station for transmitting a signal;
a plurality of base stations, each base station configured to receive the signal and transmit reverse link power control commands; and
wherein the subscriber station is configured to permit a handoff to a selected base station of the plurality of base stations according to the reverse link power control commands.

BB

33. (Once Amended) The communication system of claim 28, wherein the reverse link power control commands requesting the subscriber station to decrease its transmission energy are indicative that the signal is being received.

34. (Once Amended) The communication system of claim 28, wherein the reverse link power control commands requesting the subscriber station to increase its transmission energy are indicative that the signal is not being received.

BB

37. (New) In a wireless communication system, an apparatus for performing handoff comprising:
means for determining when a handoff is necessary;
means for receiving reverse link power control commands; and
means for selectively performing said handoff in accordance with said reverse link power control commands.

Cont.

38. (New) An apparatus comprising:
a memory configured to store messages, provided by one or more base stations, indicating a rate request of reverse link transmissions by the apparatus; and

a processor, coupled with the memory, configured to permit a handoff to a selected base station of the one or more base stations according to the stored messages.

39. Uncle

39. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for storing messages, provided by one or more base stations, indicating a rate request of reverse link transmissions by the apparatus; and

means for permitting a handoff to a selected base station of the one or more base stations according to the stored messages.
